



(Photo by Sgt. Mike Pryor, 2-82 Abn. Div. Public Affairs)

CSI: Baghdad

Staff Sgt. Amaurys Rapozo (left), of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, a squad leader with Company B, 2nd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, and his platoon leader, 2nd Lt. James Jung from Albuquerque, N.M., search through photographs found in the home of a suspected bomb-maker following a raid in Baghdad's Sha'ab neighborhood May 16.

Joint forces discover vacant torture house

By 1st Lt Charles Bloomfield
2-32 Field Artillery Regiment

BAGHDAD - Iraqi Security Forces and Soldiers from the Multi-National Division - Baghdad discovered a "torture house" in the Yarmouk neighborhood of the Iraqi capital May 16. The house was one of two sites found that day containing evidence of criminal activity in the western Baghdad Mansour District.

U.S. Soldiers from Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, along with Iraqi troops from the 2nd Battalion, 5th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division, investigated a site where U.S. forces had previously discovered a weapons cache containing nitric acid, as well as other bomb making materials.

The troops revisited the site in hopes of another discovery and found some human skeletal remains in the yard outside of the house. Inside the house, the Soldiers found other disturbing signs as they continued their search.

An upstairs room had the tools and layout of an interrogation room. Two metal mattress springs were laid against the wall near bare electrical wires, a table with odd markings from fire and chemical burns and triangle racks were hung from the ceiling.

This evidence, and knowledge of the area's history of extrajudicial killings, led the patrol leader, 1st Lt. Patrick Henson, of Orlando, Florida, and his Soldiers to conclude that the house had been used for illegal detentions, and possibly for the abuse or interrogation of kidnapped victims.

Expanding his investigation, Henson questioned the neighbors and learned that Coalition Forces had raided the house earlier this year, killing two men, but unusual activity had continued until the surge of forces into the Mansour District enabled security forces to clear many of the buildings in the vicinity.

While searching the suspected torture house, the Soldiers received a tip from a local Iraqi leading to another weapons cache nearby. At this second loca-

Troops rid Iraq of weapons

House

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tion, the troops discovered a weapons cache concealed in an air duct behind a picture hung on the wall. The cache consisted of 10 AK-47 magazines, more than 300 rounds of ammunition, three AK-47 assault rifles, an improvised grenade, a large roll of detonation cord, a camcorder, seven washing machine timers, three cell phones and numerous 9-volt batteries. Iraqi Army troops recovered one bag of ammonium nitrate and two propane tanks from the yard, as well.

Taking explosives, weapons and munitions out of

the hands of extremists relies heavily on the support of each local community, said Capt. David Levasseur, public affairs officer for the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division.

"The Iraqi people are the key to our success," he said. "Only their resolve and determination to help us by talking to security forces will allow us to deny anti-Iraqi forces places to hide."

Levasseur added that the assistance provided to Coalition Forces in this predominately Sunni neighborhood demonstrates that its residents recognize their role and are committed to helping restore peace to their community.



(Photos by 1st Lt. Patrick Henson, 2-32 FA Regt.)

(Top) An Iraqi Army soldier inventories items found during a search operation in Baghdad's Mansour District May 16. (Left) Weapons, ammunition, timers, cell phones, and an improvised grenade found in a weapons cache during the search operation.



Arabic Phrase of the Day

diktoor

**Defined:
doctor**

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today

High: 97
Low: 75



Tomorrow

High: 103
Low: 79



Monday

High: 105
Low: 79

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'New guy' on the Baghdad block intergrates into brotherhood eight months in the making

By Pfc. Ben Fox
3-1 Cav. Div. Public Affairs

KHAN BANI SA'AD, Iraq - Brotherhood - it is a major factor in keeping units together before they deploy so that Soldiers can learn to trust each other. It doesn't always work out that way though.

Pvt. Destry Mulloy is a new Soldier who went to basic training and was then immediately deployed to Iraq.

He shipped out to basic combat training Sept. 28, 2006 and graduated January 26. After spending a short time with the rear detachment at Fort Hood, Texas, he deployed March 2.

Now, Mulloy is trying to fit into a brotherhood that has spent the last eight months in Iraq, but he tries to look at things with a positive light.

"I had the chance to actually be in the field," said Mulloy. "When I get back I will have a (Combat Infantry Badge) and combat experience, which will be better for promotion points."

His new brothers at the unit treat him like the "new guy" at times, he said, but for the most part they try to help him out.

"You get the natural little bit of jokes because you're the new guy," said Mulloy.

Not only is Mulloy the newest guy to the unit, he is also one of the youngest. He turned 18 right before before he graduated basic training.

Barely setting foot off the plane that took him here, Mulloy has had much help from his leaders as well as his peers.

"Everybody here has experience and they kind of make sure



(Photo by Pfc. Ben Fox, 3-1 Cav. Public Affairs)

Scanning his sector, Pvt. Destry Mulloy, 1-12 Combined Arms Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, pulls guard on the roof of his compound in Khan Bani Sa'ad, Iraq, May 12. Mulloy was deployed to Iraq almost immediately after basic training and has had to quickly adjust to his new life.

you're not doing something stupid," he said.

Sgt. Patrick Miller, Mulloy's NCO, said, "It's probably pretty tough for him because he came over here and didn't know any of us."

Miller tries to help Mulloy out as much as possible, but also encourages him to learn from his peers.

"He gets onto me every once in a while... but that's my fault," said Mulloy. "He keeps me squared away."

Miller said he tries to be understanding because he knows that Mulloy doesn't understand everything that goes on yet, and that it will take some time before he does.

"I learned so much in those couple of months that I had

before I went to Iraq," said Miller. "He didn't really get that time."

Mulloy knew he was first heading over when he arrived at his duty station.

"They officially told me when I got to Hood," said Mulloy, who previously anticipated the deployment before being officially notified. "I knew I was going to Cav. and Cav. was already over here."

Mulloy said his initial reaction to his hasty deployment was disappointment, but he tries to look at the brighter side now.

"At the moment I thought it sucked, but now I don't regret it," said Mulloy. "I'll have plenty of time to spend when I get back."

"If I were to stay in garrison, I would've actually known the

guys a little better before I came over here," he said.

"It hasn't affected me so far, not knowing the guys when I got here," Mulloy said. "Plus I'm over here getting on the job training."

Mulloy's parents' initial reaction was shock, he said, but they understood that he had to go.

"It surprised them a little bit that I was coming over here so quickly, but they were already adjusted to the fact that I would be going sooner or later," he said.

As for Mulloy, he has accepted his deployment with a sense of duty.

"I joined the Army, and I joined the infantry for a reason," he said. "I knew Iraq was going on, so I knew pretty much that I was coming here."

Trash Talking**Talk the talk, but also walk the walk**

"I love me some me!"

No, that's not Shakespeare, that's T.O. Terrell Owens, one of the greatest talkers of our time. Talking trash is why I love sports. I love the "me first" players, the showmen and the ones that tell you before the game you can't stop them, and then prove it on the field or court.

I have always loved them. Athletes from "Prime Time" Deion Sanders of yesteryear to Floyd Mayweather today make the sports world a lot more interesting.

I was lucky enough to grow up watching Mike Tyson in his prime. Mike Tyson wasn't part of the event, he was the event. He let everyone know he was unbeatable and there was nothing they could do about it. He is still to this day one of my favorite athletes of all time.

And for the record, when I watch re-runs of the Mike Tyson versus Buster Douglas fight, I still think maybe this time he wins.

Growing up in Atlanta, I had the opportunity to see the greatest defensive player in National Football League history -- Deion Sanders. He alone was worth the price of season tickets. "Prime Time" knew he played on a terrible team, the Atlanta Falcons. But he didn't care. He cared about "me." Anytime he returned a kick or intercepted a pass, he had a chance to take it all the way, and usually did. That wasn't enough, though. Once in the end zone, he put on a

Trigger Pull
Pfc. Benjamin Gable



show. He danced and celebrated. He didn't care about penalties for excess celebration; he cared about the show.

When asked why he was such a poor tackler, he quipped, "It's a business decision." He didn't need to tackle. He was "Prime Time."

Terrell Owens has picked up where Deion left off. T.O. is the biggest talker in the NFL today. His antics are the stuff of legend. He has grabbed pom-poms from a cheerleader after scoring a touchdown and cheered for himself; kept a Sharpie in his sock to autograph a football after scoring a touchdown; and, my favorite, "ice skated" all over the star in Texas Stadium during a game against the Dallas Cowboys. How could you not love that?

I just recently watched a television special that followed Floyd Mayweather months before his championship bout versus Oscar De La Hoya. You want to talk

about a talker? That guy is one of the best. That's all he did. Mayweather called him every name in the book. Mayweather knows he can back it up, and he lets it go.

Growing up, I always had older guys to play against in sports. They taught me how to play physical, smart and, best of all, how to talk major smack.

The best talker I have ever known is next on my list.

Two words: Scott Beck.

For those of us who are either lucky or unlucky enough to know him, those two words can literally start a fight. He is one of my closest friends, and can he talk. This is a guy that came up in a place we affectionately call, "the Holler." Let's just say it's not the wealthiest neighborhood you have ever seen.

While I wouldn't step on the basketball court unless I had the best gear, Scott would show up in a work shirt, cut-off blue jean shorts, (with a

wallet full of change, and a comb) and a pair of "shandals." (That's half shoe, half sandal). But he could play, and he could talk. Scott never met a shot he didn't like. He let everyone in the gym know when he scored. He has been kicked out of countless men's league games for talking smack. He is the guy that stands at half-court and says "I'm open!" then gets mad if you don't give him the ball. I just talked to him for the first time in a year and he wanted to talk about when he scored 33 points against our rival, Cherokee County High School, in ninth grade.

All of these guys have made sports so much more interesting and fun to watch for me. There are only a select few who can talk it and back it up. I'm always looking for that next superstar who can talk all day long and then dominate his sport.

They are the reason I watch.

